



MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 28-02
October 02, 2002

Port Condition Yankee Set for Houston-Galveston - Hurricane Lili

The U. S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port has set Port Condition Yankee for the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City. The most recent advisory, at 1300 CDT, located the center of Hurricane Lili at 25.3° N, 89.4° W with maximum sustained winds of 135 mph. The storm is a Category 4 hurricane and currently forecasted to track northwest at 15 mph towards the Gulf Coast. Gale force winds from Hurricane Lili extend 160 nm (185 statute miles) from the center of the storm and are possible in the Houston-Galveston area by mid-morning Thursday, October 3. Sea conditions may restrict the movement of vessels in and out of the port well ahead of the arrival of high winds. Updated information on Hurricane Lili can be found at the National Hurricane Center's website: <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

The Captain of the Port has established a safety zone for the following areas:

The MSO Houston-Galveston Captain of the Port zone as defined in 33 CFR 3.40-28 to include the ports of Houston, Galveston, Freeport and Texas City and all surrounding navigable waterways.

No vessels may enter, transit or remain within this safety zone without the permission of the Captain of the Port. The following additional requirements are in effect:

1. Cease Cargo Operations. All transfer of cargo operations shall cease when wind speeds reach 40 mph.
2. Disconnect Transfer Hoses. Disconnect all transfer hoses and loading arms when wind speeds exceed 50 mph.

3. Vessels desiring to Depart Port Must Arrange Immediate Departure. Movement of all vessels and barges over 500 gross tons desiring to depart the port must contact the Captain of the Port at (713) 671-5100 (ext. 0) to arrange immediate departure.
4. All Vessels Must be at Mooring Site and Follow Approved Remaining in Port Checklist. All commercial vessels and barges greater than 500 GT remaining in port must be at their mooring site in accordance with their "Remaining in Port Checklist" as approved by the Captain of the Port. Any such vessels that haven't submitted checklists must fax them immediately to (713) 671-5177. The checklist can be obtained by visiting the MSO Houston-Galveston website at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/hougal/inport.htm> or calling (713) 671-5100 (ext. 0).
5. Smaller Commercial Vessels Not Restricted by Draft. Smaller vessels not restricted by draft, including fishing vessels, are asked to seek shelter outside the deep draft shipping channels and turning areas.
6. Vessels Bound for This Port. Vessels bound for this port are advised to seek an alternate destination.

The COTP anticipates setting the following Port Condition in advance of the arrival of Hurricane Lili:

CONDITION ZULU:

Within 12 hours of expected gale force winds from Hurricane Lili, the COTP will set Port Condition Zulu. Future Port Conditions are set contingent upon the storm's course and speed. Should the hurricane increase in speed, Condition Zulu may be set sooner.

Questions or comments regarding this bulletin should be directed to the Marine Safety Office Command Duty Officer or Hurricane Officer at (713) 671-5100 (ext. 0).

Kevin S. Cook
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port